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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/476,419	12/30/1999	EDWARD B. EYCHISON	SONY-50M2430	7826
7590	01/03/2006		EXAMINER	
WAGNER MURABITO & HALO LLP TWO NORTH MARKET STREET THIRD FLOOR SAN JOSE, CA 95113			BLAIR, DOUGLAS B	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2142	

DATE MAILED: 01/03/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/476,419	EYTCHISON, EDWARD B.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Douglas B. Blair	2142	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 17 October 2005.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-42 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-42 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____. |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____. | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____. |

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. Claims 1-42 are currently pending in this application.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

3. Claims 1, 3-9, 11-17, and 19-42 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Number 6,848,104 to Van Ee et al..

4. As to claim 1, Van Ee teaches a method of operating a plurality of types of consumer electronic devices interconnected to form a network (col. 7, lines 23-46), said method comprising: configuring a resource manager of said network with an access policy during network initialization wherein said access policy dictates a condition under which a particular service request is permissible to a user (col. 6, lines 50-67); receiving a service request indicating an identity of a user (col. 6, lines 50-67); based on said identity, said resource manager determining whether said service request violates said access policy (col. 6, lines 50-67); provided said service request is permissible, said resource manager determining whether resources of said network necessary for carrying out said service request are available (col. 11, line 31-col. 12, line 24); and provided said resources necessary for carrying out said service

request are available, said resource manager transmitting control signals to said network causing said plurality of types of consumer electronic devices to carry out said service request (col. 11, line 31-col. 12, line 24).

5. As to claim 3, Van Ee teaches a method as recited in Claim 1 further comprising the step of maintaining a record of activities of said user (col. 6, lines 12-35).

6. As to claim 4, Van Ee teaches a method as recited in Claim 3 wherein said determining whether said service request violates said access policy comprises the step of retrieving said record of activities of said user from a log database provided said access policy is dependent on user activities (col. 6, lines 12-35).

7. As to claim 5, Van Ee teaches a method as recited in Claim 1 further comprising: communicating user identification information of said user to said server; authenticating said user identification information; and provided said user identification information is unauthenticated, denying said user access to resources of said network (col. 6, lines 50-67).

8. As to claim 6, Van Ee teaches a method as described in Claim 5 wherein said resources comprise hard resources and soft resources, and wherein said hard resources comprise said plurality of types of consumer electronic devices and wherein said soft resources comprise content information accessible by said plurality of types of consumer electronic devices (col. 23, lines 13-34).

9. As to claim 7, Van Ee teaches a method as recited in Claim 6 wherein said determining whether resources of said network necessary for carrying out said service request are available comprises the step of accessing a resource pool, wherein said resource pool contains information regarding availability of said hard resources (col. 11, line 31-col. 12, line 24).

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10. As to claim 8, Van Ee teaches a method as recited in Claim 1 wherein said access policy is stored in a policy database accessible by said resource manager (col. 6, lines 12-35).

11. As to claims 9 and 11-16, they feature the same limitations as claims 1 and 3-8 are rejected on the same basis as claims 1 and 3-8.

12. As to claims 17 and 19-23, they feature the same limitations as claims 1 and 3-7 and are rejected on the same basis as claims 1 and 3-7.

13. As to claim 24, Van Ee teaches a method of operating a network comprising consumer electronics devices, comprising the acts of: receiving a request from a user of the network, wherein the request comprises a request for output of a media content item without the user specifying a source providing the media content item to the network and without the user specifying an electronic device of the network for the output (col. 23, lines 13-34, the user just selects a button and therefore does not specify a source or output device.); and outputting the media content item if the user is permitted to receive the media content item (col. 6, lines 50-67) and if an electronic device of the network is available to output the media content item (col. 11, line 31-col. 12, line 24)

14. As to claim 25, Van Ee teaches the method of claim 24, wherein the network comprises a home network comprising consumer electronic devices (col. 7, lines 23-46).

15. As to claim 26, Van Ee teaches the method of claim 24, wherein the request comprises a request for the output at a particular location (col. 6, lines 50-67).

16. As to claim 27, Van Ee teaches the method of claim 24, wherein the media content item comprises audio and video (col. 6, lines 50-67).

17. As to claim 28-32, Van Ee teaches a system that is capable of supporting multiple users (col. 11, lines 31-61).

18. As to claim 41, Van Ee teaches the method of claim 24, wherein the network comprises a plurality of devices capable of acting as a source for the media content (col. 6, lines 50-67).

19. As to claims 33-40 and 42, they feature the same limitations as claims 24-32 and 41 and are rejected for the same reasons as claims 24-32 and 41.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

20. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

21. Claims 2, 10, and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Number 6,848,104 to Van Ee et al. in view of U.S. Patent Number 6,826,624 to Fell Jr..

22. As to claim 2, Van Ee teaches the method of claim 1 including determining when a service request violates an access policy (col. 6, lines 50-67); however Van Ee does not explicitly teach act of sending a failure message to a user.

Fell teaches sending a failure message when service request violates an access policy (col. 7, lines 41-49).

It would have been obvious at to one of ordinary skill in the Computer Networking art at the time of the invention to combine the teaching of Van Ee regarding the management of

consumer electronic devices with the teachings of Fell regarding a failure message because a failure message allows a user to know that there is a problem.

Response to Arguments

23. Applicant's arguments filed 10/17/2005 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. The applicant argues the following points: a) Van Ee does not disclose "receiving a service request indicating an identity of a user"; b) Van Ee does not disclose "receiving a request from a user of the network, wherein the request comprises a request for output of a media content item without the user specifying a source providing the media content item to the network and without the user specifying an electronic device of the network for the output"; and c) Van Ee does not disclose "configuring a resource manager of said network with an access policy during network initialization wherein said access policy dictates a condition under which a particular service request is permissible to a user".

24. As to point a), the cited portion of the Van Ee reference describes parameters which identify users making service requests, specifically when an access policy is applied to service requests belonging to certain users (col. 5, lines 50-67).

25. As to point b), as previously stated in the last office action, Van Ee is considered to teach this limitation as claimed.

26. As to point c), For reasons pointed out previously Van Ee teaches the implementation of an access policy based on the identity of a particular user including conditions under which a service request is permissible.

Conclusion

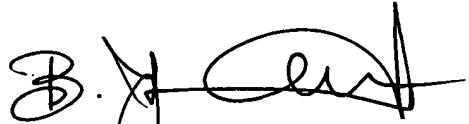
27. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

28. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Douglas B. Blair whose telephone number is 571-272-3893. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30am-5pm Mon-Fri.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Andrew Caldwell can be reached on 571-272-3868. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-305-3800.



BUNJOB JAROENCHONWANIT
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER

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Douglas Blair

DOB: 3